

CHAPIN POND (Ludlow)

General Information:

Also known as "Havilland Pond," this is a small (25-acre) fertile, warm water pond located 0.7 miles northeast of the Massachusetts Pike and Route 21 intersection. The water is clear in color with a transparency of 25 feet. The average depth is18 feet and maximum depth is 31 feet. The pond was reclaimed in 1958. The productivity at the time of that reclamation was estimated at 200 pounds of fish per acre. The mile of shoreline is 85% developed and a large public beach is located on the north shore.

Access is off North Street. A paved public launch ramp suitable for trailer launching is located just to the right of the public beach. **Motor boats are prohibited** and shoreline access is limited. There is no vehicle/trailer parking on the ramp, although there is parking available in the town beach parking lot across the street.

This pond can be located on the U.S.G.S. topographic quad map titled "Ludlow." Nearby fishing areas include Higher Brook, Red Bridge Pool and the Chicopee River.

Fish Populations:

The fish population was last sampled during a 1980 summer survey. The seven species present, listed in order of abundance, include largemouth bass, bluegill, yellow perch, pumpkinseed, chain pickerel, killifish and white perch. Trout are stocked annually to create a put and take urban fishery. There is no evidence of any significant carryover, although fall stocking and early spring stocking provide four-season fishing.

Fishing:

Trout fishing is best from the commencement of stocking in early spring into late May or early June. The largemouth bass population shows evidence of over fishing. The bass tend to be small here and exhibit slow growth rates. Chain pickerel are less numerous than bass, but growth rates are good when compared to the state average for this species. Yellow perch are overabundant and the taking of this species is encouraged.

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